



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MS112

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Nomination #2 –Green and Perry Counties, and the northern half of George County,
Mississippi

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Intersection of state routes 98 and 63 in Lucedale, Mississippi (George Co)

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The primary objective of a veterinarian serving this area is to address a critical shortage of food animal veterinary services. The southeast area of the state has a large stocker cattle population, as well as a large number of beef cows and small ruminants. According to the 2010 NASS county estimates, close to 30,000 cattle and calves are located in this region, with 2 large animal veterinary practices located in George county and none in either Greene or Perry counties (AVMA Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates and MSU CVM alumni records). This area is underserved and will require the services of additional veterinary care for livestock sustainability.

Another objective of this position is for the veterinarian to become a long-term resident of the community. **This veterinarian would be expected to dedicate at least 40% of their time in food animal practice.** The veterinarian is expected to be based within 50 miles north or northwest of Lucedale, a central location with good highway access. While rural in nature (Greene Co pop'n - 14,000, Perry Co pop'n - 12,000, US Census), the location of this position will provide the veterinarian with accessibility to larger cities such as Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama.

(199 words)

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Routine veterinary care would include herd health consultations (including vaccination and parasite control planning, pregnancy examinations and breeding soundness exams), regulatory services in accordance with state and federal health programs, issuance of interstate health papers and animal identification, and emergency veterinary services. The veterinarian will also be expected to educate others on proper animal handling and promote animal welfare according to scientifically-based industry standards.

The southeastern region of the state also houses livestock markets with the highest total receipts, and the veterinarian should also be prepared to work with these markets and livestock exhibitions held in the region. They would collaborate with Extension/ 4-H livestock personnel and provide guidance and education in the areas of animal health and public health, and serve as a model for future food animal veterinarians. The veterinarian will also likely need to provide equine and companion animal services to ensure business viability. It is anticipated that this person will establish a business model and contribute to the local economy. This veterinarian will not only serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, but will also serve as a front line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging and exotic animal diseases.

(199 words)

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Veterinary practitioners and livestock producers have inquired to the state veterinary association as well as the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) regarding additional veterinarians to help alleviate the work load in the area. Although CVM externship records show that students gain experience with stocker cattle by visiting the few large animal practices in the southeastern part of the state, current practicing veterinarians have had a difficult time in hiring and retaining associates due to the economic realities of the region. Veterinarians moving to the area have migrated into equine or companion animal practices given the depressed local economies.

(99 words)

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, with cattle and calves being the 4th leading commodity in agricultural sales. This area of the state has a large stocker cattle population, and large animal veterinary services are crucial for the economic stability of the area. All areas of the state are also experiencing growth in sheep and goat populations, and Greene County has the 2nd largest goat population in the state (2007 NASS estimates). With a large number of calves entering the state for feeding purposes (and not likely adequately represented in NASS estimates) this

veterinarian will not only serve as a valuable animal health resource to the community, but will also serve as a front line of defense in the recognition of potential emerging and foreign animal diseases.

Veterinary services available from adjacent counties are limited. The risks of a veterinarian not being secured or retained are many, including: increased livestock morbidity and mortality due to lack of available veterinary care, improper animal treatments, improper animal handling and increased threats to animal welfare. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or other chemicals are used improperly or when improper drug withdrawals are followed. Environmental concerns such as chemical and waste disposal may also go unanswered due to lack of a veterinarian knowledgeable in the community about public health issues in agriculture. The failure to recognize emerging, and foreign animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic, may also threaten the entire US agricultural community.

(244 words)

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreement at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: James A. Watson

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Mississippi Board of Animal Health

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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